



URDA

اتحاد الجمعيات الإغاثية و التنمية
Union of Relief & Development Associations

urda-lb.org

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INTRODUCTION

Between a Fragile Truce and Unrelenting Fire, URDA Continues Its Humanitarian Mission

In April, Lebanon did not experience true peace. The echoes of shelling persist, uncertainty shapes daily life, and thousands of families remain in shelters, waiting for a moment of safety that would allow them to return home. More than 40,000 housing units have been destroyed, turning the lives of tens of thousands into a prolonged journey of forced displacement, marked by loss and uncertainty.

Behind these figures are untold stories: a mother striving to reassure her children, a father searching for a source of income, and children longing for a simple return to normal life. Amid widespread destruction affecting homes and livelihoods, and with the continuous rise in the cost of living, pressure on daily life continues to intensify, further limiting communities' ability to cope.

In this context, URDA continues its humanitarian response without interruption, maintaining an active presence across South Lebanon, Beirut, Saida, and the Beqaa. Shelters remain operational, assistance is ongoing, and field teams are working tirelessly to meet the urgent needs of displaced families and stand by them during these critical times.

This newsletter is not only a reflection of activities and achievements, it is a space for people, for their voices, and for hope that endures.

Here, at URDA, life continues despite everything, and humanity remains stronger.



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URDA Continues Its Emergency Response and Keeps Shelters Open for Displaced Families

Amid ongoing security threats and renewed waves of displacement, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) continues its humanitarian efforts by operating and expanding shelter centers across several regions in Lebanon. Despite challenging conditions on the ground, URDA remains committed to receiving displaced families and meeting their essential needs.

These shelters include: Saida – Kuwaiti Lebanese School, Saida – Ain El Helweh Public School, Beirut – Al Iman Al Zarif, Beirut – Al Ikhaa, Beqaa – Jeb Jennine School, South Lebanon – Marj Al Zouhour, and South Lebanon – Souk Al Khan. Field teams continue to receive families on a daily basis and provide them with urgent humanitarian assistance.

Despite the announcement of a ceasefire, the humanitarian situation remains fragile. Some families who attempted to return to their homes have been forced to flee again and return to shelters due to ongoing security threats and shelling in certain areas, reflecting continued displacement and instability.

URDA teams are working around the clock to ensure a relatively safe environment within these centers by providing mattresses and blankets, distributing food parcels, drinking water, and hygiene supplies, in addition to delivering Psychological First Aid sessions, particularly for children facing repeated displacement and loss of safety.

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Alarming Figures from the Heart of the Crisis: Widespread Displacement and Heavy Human Losses Despite the Ceasefire

In its daily report issued by the Disaster Risk Management Unit at the Grand Serail on April 24, 2026, serious humanitarian dimensions continue to unfold, reflecting the scale of the ongoing crisis in Lebanon since the outbreak of war on March 2, 2026—despite the declared ceasefire and a relative decrease in the intensity of hostilities.

According to the report, a total of 631 shelter centers remain operational, currently hosting 115,432 displaced individuals across 29,814 families. These figures highlight the unprecedented scale of internal displacement and the continued instability affecting tens of thousands of households.

On the ground, 9,084 hostile incidents have been recorded since the beginning of the conflict, underscoring the persistence of security tensions and the fragility of the ceasefire.

As for human losses, the toll has reached 2,491 fatalities and 7,719 injuries as of yesterday evening, reflecting the heavy humanitarian cost borne by civilians since the escalation began, despite a relative decline in daily casualty figures in recent weeks.

These figures confirm that while the ceasefire has reduced the intensity of violence, it has not yet alleviated the consequences of the war. Hundreds of thousands of displaced individuals continue to live in shelter centers under increasingly challenging humanitarian conditions and mounting socio-economic pressures.



URDA Continues Its Humanitarian Response Across Lebanon, Reaching Thousands of Displaced Families

The Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) continues to implement its emergency response across multiple regions, supporting displaced families, vulnerable communities, and shelter centers affected by the ongoing crisis.

Through coordinated field operations covering Beirut, South Lebanon, the Beqaa, Tripoli, and Palestinian camps, URDA has delivered essential assistance aimed at strengthening food security, improving living conditions, and ensuring access to basic services.



Key assistance delivered in April:

- 275** food parcels
- 525** sleeping kits
- 880** hygiene kits
- 1,270** ready-to-eat kits
- 2,820** water units
- 3,567** bread distributions
- 192** rechargeable lamps
- 250** portable gas units
- 2,814** hot meals
- 164** milk supplies
- 120** baby diaper packages

In addition, URDA implemented infrastructure and maintenance support in shelter centers, including bathroom rehabilitation, installation of 80 lighting units, electricity support and diesel provision, and sewage system repairs. Assistance was also extended to families in Souk Al Khan and to 28 families residing in shelter rooms in the Beqaa.

URDA reaffirms its commitment to supporting affected communities and strengthening coordination with partners and relevant stakeholders across Lebanon, with a focus on food security, shelter support, and the protection of the most vulnerable populations.



Second Field Visit by UNHCR to URDA Shelter in Saida

As part of ongoing field monitoring of humanitarian conditions in shelter centers, Carolina Lindholm Billing, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Lebanon, conducted a second field visit to the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) shelter in Saida , Lebanese Kuwaiti School, to assess the conditions of displaced populations and identify their humanitarian needs.

This visit follows a previous mission aimed at monitoring the situation of displaced families who continue to face difficult living conditions amid the ongoing impact of the crisis, despite the announcement of a ceasefire. The visit included an overview of the services provided within the shelter, as well as the key challenges faced by residents, particularly overcrowding and the sustained need for humanitarian assistance.

During the visit, UNHCR reaffirmed its commitment to supporting displaced families and standing by affected communities. URDA, in turn, emphasized the importance of continuing coordination with international partners to ensure the delivery of essential services and to improve living conditions within shelter facilities.



URDA Delivers Psychosocial Support Sessions in Shelters to Mitigate Trauma Among Displaced Populations

As part of its ongoing humanitarian response, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA) continues to implement psychosocial support (PSS) sessions within shelter centers, aiming to alleviate the deep psychological impacts of the crisis on displaced individuals, particularly children, women, and the elderly.

These activities are being carried out notably in the Saida Shelter, Lebanese Kuwaiti School, where specialized teams provide structured, safe, and age-appropriate psychosocial support programs tailored to the urgent mental health and social needs of displaced communities.



The sessions aim to support mental well-being, strengthen coping mechanisms, and provide safe spaces for emotional expression, considering the difficult conditions faced by displaced families who were forced to flee their villages and homes due to widespread destruction of infrastructure, including housing, schools, and livelihoods.

These interventions are aligned with internationally recognized protection and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) approaches, which prioritize the most vulnerable groups and contribute to reducing the impact of trauma while promoting a sense of safety and stability within shelter environments.

URDA Continues Remote Psychosocial Support Workshops for Journalists and Human Rights Defenders Amid Ongoing Conflict

As part of the project “Advancing Human Rights through Digital Transformation in Lebanon,” funded by the European Union, the Union of Relief and Development Associations in Lebanon (URDA), in collaboration with DCA and DOT Lebanon, continues to implement a series of psychosocial support workshops for journalists and human rights defenders. These sessions are being conducted remotely (online) due to the deteriorating security situation and the ongoing impact of the conflict in Lebanon.

These workshops fall within broader efforts to strengthen mental health and psychosocial protection for media professionals and human rights actors, considering the significant pressures and increasing challenges they face while operating in conflict and crisis settings.

The sessions address key topics, including coping mechanisms for psychological stress and trauma associated with working in high-risk environments, as well as strategies to enhance resilience and maintain a healthy balance between professional and personal life.

Through this EU-funded project, URDA continues to support capacity building for journalists and human rights defenders, while promoting safer and more sustainable working environments that enable them to carry out their professional and humanitarian roles effectively despite the challenging context in Lebanon.



ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH DIGITAL
TRANSFORMATION IN LEBANON



Between cautious anticipation and an unyielding hope, the question remains open: will this war come to an end soon, or will the wait continue?

As Eid Al-Adha approaches, thousands of families are preparing to receive it with hearts weighed down by uncertainty and simple wishes that do not go beyond safety and a return to homes where life once existed. In shelter centers, faces continue to reflect exhaustion, yet they hold on to a fragile thread of hope.

In this reality, URDA continues its commitment to standing by affected families—not only by providing assistance, but by preserving their dignity and supporting them through their most difficult moments. Endings may be delayed... but humanity does not wait.

And here, where giving continues, hope remains alive.

URDA's Appeal : To make Lebanon Heal

